

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL WORKERS ELECTION

SUMMARY. COMMERCIAL WORKERS TRADE UNION SECRETARY AND CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FLORENCIO CARRANZA DEFEATED CONFEDERATION SEC GEN DAVID DISKIN IN UNION ELECTIONS FOR 4-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE. FOR FIRST TIME 62 ORGANIZATIONS ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE IN ELECTIONS OF MEMBER UNION BY CALLING FOR DISKIN'S RE-ELECTION. CARRANZA VICTORY VIEWED AS MAJOR DEFEAT FOR LORENZO MIGUEL AND REJECTION OF 62 ORGANIZATIONS' ATTEMPTED INTERVENTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 21 ELECTIONS, FLORENCIO CARRANZA - COMMERICAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CGEC) TRADE UNION SECRETARY - DEFEATED CONFEDERATION SEC GEN DAVID DISKIN FOR A 4-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE AS HEAD OF SECOND LARGEST UNION IN ARGENTINA. CARRANZA, WHO IS MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD CGT, OBTAINED DECISIVE SUPPORT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL FEDERATION ASSISTANT SEC GEN INDES DHI GHIAN, WHO SWUNG ENTIRE FEDERAL CAPITAL VOTES TO CARRANZA. DHI GHIAN WAS AWARDED WITH SUBSEC GEN POSITION ON WINNING SLATE, THUS MAKING HER THE HIGHEST RANKING FEMALE TRADE UNIONIST IN ARGENTINA.

2. WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT DISKIN WOULD LOSE ELECTIONS, HIS SUPPORTERS ABANDONED CONGRESS, CHARGED "IRREGULARITIES" AND STATED THEY WOULD ASK MINLABOR OTERO TO ANNUAL ELECTIONS AND
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NAME INTERVENTOR FOR CONFEDERATION. BOTH CARRANZA AND DISKIN ARE

ORTHODOX PERONISTS SO NO MAJOR CHANGE IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY IS INVOLVED. CARRANZA ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNDER DISKIN HAD NOT EXERCISED THE MAJOR ROLE IN THE ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT WHICH BEFITTED SUCH A LARGE UNION.

3. COMMENT. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ELECTION LIES NOT IN THE ELECTION OF CARRANZA BUT IN THE OBVIOUS DEFEAT WHICH IT IMPLIED FOR 62 ORGANIZATIONS STRONGMAN LORENZO MIGUEL. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT, THE 62 ORGANIZATIONS ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE DIRECTLY IN ELECTIONS OF MEMBER UNION BY PUBLICLY CALLING FOR DISKIN'S RE-ELECTION. ALTHOUGH 62 ORGANIZATIONS LATER RECANTED ITS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED CALL FOR DISKIN'S RE-ELECTION BY STATING THAT ITS MAJOR INTEREST WAS IN THE ELECTION OF AN ORTHODOX SLATE WHICH FULLY ACCEPTED PERONIST CONCEPT OF VERTICALITY, THE DAMAGE TO MIGUEL WAS APPARENT. MIGUEL'S SUPPORT FOR DISKIN DID NOT IMPLY THAT THERE WERE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIM AND CARRANZA BUT RATHER THAT HE WISHED TO HELP HIS CLOSE ALLY DISKIN. REGARDLESS OF THE MOTIVE, HIS VENTURE INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A UNION AFFILIATED WITH THE 62 ORGANIZATIONS CAN ONLY CREATE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR HIM AND BETWEEN HIM AND CARRANZA. MINLABOR'S RESPONSE TO DISKIN'S SUPPORTERS CALL FOR ANNULMENT OF ELECTIONS WILL BE GOOD INDICATION OF MIGUEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ELECTION OUTCOME.

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